GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE
SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any action to develop communication infrastructure with Myanmar

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken towards the direction; and

(c) the benefits likely to be derived there-from particularly in North-Eastern region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a & b) In order to develop better connectivity with Myanmar, India has taken up several mutually beneficial cross border projects. India has upgraded the 160 Km. long Tamu-Kalemyo-Kalewa road across Manipur. GOI has also undertaken to maintain the road for a period of 6 years. We have also agreed to build the Rih-Tiddim and Rih-Falam road sections across Mizoram at the request of Myanmar. A detailed project report is being prepared for a multi-modal transport project involving development of a highway from Kaletwa to Indo-Myanmar border at Mizoram and upgradation of Sittwe port in Myanmar.

In the area of telecommunications, a proposal to establish hotlines between two banks of India and Myanmar in the border areas is under consideration. The establishment of telephone link will help in the operationalization of L/C business and streamline the trade transactions. ISRO has assisted Myanmar in setting up of a Data Processing Centre in Myanmar for remote sensing applications and agreed to supply satellite data free of charge for two years.

(c) These infrastructure projects will help build long term linkages between our North-Eastern states and Myanmar and will help promote trade, travel and people to people contacts.